

God's Delay's are not God's Denials, Part 1 - Acts 25:1-2 – March 7th, 2010

- By way of introduction to this new chapter, it's necessary that we understand what has led up to this point in the life of the Apostle Paul.
- In Jerusalem, he was falsely accused of crimes he never committed, then, to save his life Lysias has him taken into protective custody.
- God reveals to Lysias a plot to kill Paul via Paul's nephew and he's escorted by the military out of Jerusalem and to Caesarea by night.

- Upon his arrival in Caesarea, Paul goes on trial before the then governor Felix, and though he's innocent, Felix keeps him in custody.
- That's how chapter 24 ends and how 25 begins, two years have gone by and Felix is replaced by Festus as Caesarea's new Governor.
- Does this mean that Paul will now receive justice? Well, not exactly at least not yet anyway. Justice may be delayed; it won't be denied.

- This is part one of a series title; "God's Delay's are not God's Denials." In this chapter, we're about to see how this all plays out for Paul.
- At first glance, it would seem that this unjust two year delay in Caesarea may somehow thwart God's plan for the beloved Apostle.
- My heart's desire in teaching this series is that we would come away from it with a sense of God's perfectly timed plans for our lives.
- It's been said; "God is never late, but God is never early either." I suggest to you; at the end of the day we don't want Him to be early.
- I've experienced this in my own life in many ways not the least of which was that I wasn't ready for what God wanted to ready me for.

"We can see that Paul's generous "imprisonment" in Caesarea was actually a providential provision of protective custody against the murderous intentions of the Jews, as well as a "forced rest" in light of his unfailing missionary service in years past, and great tasks in the years ahead."

David Guzik, Calvary Chapel Siegen Germany

- With this in mind, what can we learn from the life of Paul as it relates to God's delays not being misinterpreted as God's denials?

1. Man's way can't deny God's way (Verses 1-2)

1 Three days after arriving in the province, Festus went up from Caesarea to Jerusalem, 2 where the chief priests and Jewish leaders appeared before him and presented the charges against Paul.

- v1 Luke tells us that after three days of the new Governor Festus' arrival in Caesarea, he makes a trip to Jerusalem all because of Paul.
- v2 The chief priests and Jewish leaders appear before the new Governor and levy their charges against Paul, now for the second time.
- I have to confess that if this were me I would have had it with these people. C'mon already, "Pau already!" I'm innocent, let's move on!
- Suffice it to say, that regardless of how many people get in the way and try to delay God will still have His way and the Apostle knows it!

Proverbs 5:21 For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths. NIV

Isaiah 55:8-9 8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. 9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. NIV